

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, September 9, 2007, 6:00 p.m.
Hooker Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Roll Call:

Members Present: Bob Bent, John Hamilton, Cairril Mills, John West, Catherine Stafford, Jeff Mease, Christine Glaser, Paul Sullivan, Dave Rollo, Toby Strout

Staff Present: Adam Wason, Assistant Economic Development Director of Small Business and Sustainable Development, Jenny Sumner, Sustainability Intern

Absent: George Huntington

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes from July 10th, 2007

Meeting minutes were approved with the following substantive changes: The IU Task Force is composed of 5 faculty, 7 staff, 2 students, and 13 interns.

Public Comment

None of the citizens present made public comment.

Announcements

Jeff Mease commented that he met with Scott Morgan of the solid waste management district. Scott suggested that BCOS might want to look into what happens to recycling in Bloomington, particularly with glass. BCOS and the City should be knowledgeable sources because they are funding the recycling program. Jeff mentioned that BCOS would benefit from speaking with Dan Gajus, of Hoosier Disposal, and Scott Morgan. It was decided that BCOS will bring Scott in to speak at October's meeting.

Jenny Sumner announced that the Change A Light Bus tour will be coming to Indianapolis in October, and requested that the Commission consider sending someone to speak and be engaged with the event.

Cairril announced that an upcoming PBS show, "Brown is the new green" about how marketers are trying to define all minority groups in one block.

Dave Rollo will be attending the 4th Annual Community Solutions Conference from October 26-28 in Yellowsprings, Ohio. The conference will discuss peak oil.

Sustainability Assessment Report (SAR)

Hard copies of the SAR were presented to commission members.

Suggested revisions included:

- List the commissioners and staff after the introduction (page iii).
- Revise the cover and put Mike's name and a special thank you in the introduction. Add staff and commission members to iii.
- Dave Rollo suggested that changing "not sure" to "inconclusive" and the sentence "we can't tell what's happening yet" sentence to "whether we think the situation is getting worse, improving, or whether a trend has not yet been established" The motion was passed 7-2.

A motion to accept the SAR as amended passed unanimously.

Getting the word out: John Hamilton called for requests of commission members to help get the word out. Please copy Adam. John West suggested that instead of highlighting a particular issue, highlight the purpose of the report and the issue of sustainability in the community. John Hamilton reminded the Commission that members of the commission are being interviewed, they might be asked for specific statistics or facts from the report. Catherine Stafford said that she will be around to give information about the process of starting the indicators report.

2007 SAR: There was a discussion about how to accomplish the 2007 SAR. Key issues to address include: who will gather the data? This could be a project of the Sustainability Fellows, Adam, or potential new interns. Cairril suggested that everyone on the commission should be involved with gathering data. The SAR committee should be involved with gathering that data. Others suggested that the role of the Commission should be to set the agenda, determine indicators, but not to gather data. There was a discussion of whether more staff time was needed to complete the report, and whether Adam could manage new interns. Dave mentioned that special appropriations can be made, or more funding can be requested through the Mayor's budget.

It was commented that this years report could expand indicators or extend data, and therefore Commissioner need to be involved with making these decisions.

John Hamilton suggested that Adam, George, Jenny and Mollie need to sit down and decide where to spend resources.

Intern projects: The commission discussed possible intern projects proposed by Jenny Sumner. They include further work on Change A Light, the green building website, Sustain list serve announcements, case studies, a sustainability tour, transportation summit, GHG implementation, once the recommendations have passed through the EC and BCOS, and a potential composting project, and the SAR.

Professor Tom Evans' GIS class

If you have an idea for his course, email John Hamilton. Professor Evans has fall and spring classes. Potential projects brainstormed include: a study of potential rooftop gardens, monitoring energy use in the community, permeable surfaces, and looking at the local foodshed.

Documenting the local foodshed could include finding what land is appropriate for growing, how much food is being grown in the area, etc. Possible connections to this project include the

Middle Way House food group and the IU food group, and Mike Simmons of Parks and Rec, who has done a 100 mile food study.

Steady State Economy: John Hamilton announced that the EC would like BCOS to consider endorsing a position on the Steady State Economy, which says that there are limits to growth in a natural system. It was concluded that there is not enough time to work on this issue.

Events: Please tell Adam about events where you have made presentations. Dave suggested giving a presentation to the Council about BCOS events.

Chair's Report: Please think about committees you would like to join and talk with Adam.

Staff report

- Adam will do a test of the sustain listserve, because commissioners reported not getting the announcements.
- The Greenpeace solar truck was present at the Farmers' Market.
- The EC and Education Committee of BCOS are working on a green building guide, with help from the EC intern, Mollie and Jenny.
- The canopy of lights is in need of funds for replacement bulbs. It was suggested that the City sell CFLs at a higher price to subsidize the maintenance, however, CFLs cannot be sold in City Hall.
- The Indiana Business Journal reported that Indiana is falling behind with LEED buildings. Only 6 to 9 buildings in Indiana are LEED certified. However, we do not know how many non-certified green buildings in Indiana exist.

Committee Reports:

Education Committee: There will be another energy efficiency seminar on Monday. The seminars will run through November. Attendance has been down, especially during the summer.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm.

